REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1-11 were amended, and claims 12-23 were added. Accordingly, claims 1-23 are at issue in the above-identified application.

I. Objection To Specification

The Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not descriptive. In response, Applicants have amended the title. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' amendment to claims 1-11 obviates this rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the invention as disclosed in claim 1 is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify the steps to be performed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

IV. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kotsavasiloglou et al., "Model for a Neural Network Structure and Signal Transmission." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method, comprising the steps of growing a first fractal structure from a first start site, growing a second fractal structure from a second start site and coupling the first fractal structure to the second fractal structure during the step of growing the second fractal structure.

Kotsavasiloglou et al. discloses a neural network constructed of a large number of neurons. (See page 4491, column 1, paragraph 3, first sentence). In Kotsavasiloglou et al., a number of neurons is first formed independently and then placed together on a two-dimensional square lattice, in random positions. (See page 4491, column 2, paragraph 2, first sentence). Because the neurons in Kotsavasiloglou et al. are formed independently and then placed together, Kotsavasiloglou et al. does not disclose or suggest coupling the first fractal structure to the second fractal structure during the step of growing the second fractal structure, as required by claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over Kotsavasiloglou et al. For reasons similar to those discussed with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submits that claims 2 and 3 are also allowable over Kotsavasiloglou et al.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 18, 2004

By: _____

Marina N. Saito
Registration No. 42,121
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000